

I gave a speech at the Ohio State University—thank you for inviting me, Hope. And I was pleased to see that 70 percent of the graduating class of Ohio State University had at one time or another volunteered, one time or another served something greater than themselves. Perhaps the culture is changing from one that has said, “If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you’ve got a problem, blame somebody else,” to a culture in which each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life—responsible for loving our children, responsible for loving our neighbors, responsible for serving a nation by helping somebody in need.

The poet William Wordsworth wrote this. He said, “What we have loved, others will love, and we’ll teach them how.” And that’s what you all are here to discuss today. On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for teaching them how.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Michelle Engler, wife of Gov. John Engler of Michigan; and Hope Taft, wife of Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio.

Statement on the Death of Jack Buck *June 19, 2002*

I am deeply saddened by the death of Jack Buck. Jack endeared himself to sports fans throughout the country with his colorful commentary and love of America’s pastime. An honoree of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Pro Football Hall of Fame, and Radio Hall of Fame, Jack covered sports in St. Louis, Missouri, and across the Nation for the last 50 years. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family. He will be missed.

Message on the Observance of Juneteenth *June 19, 2002*

I send greetings to those celebrating Juneteenth.

June 19 provides an opportunity for all Americans to reflect on the ideal of freedom

and to learn more about the end of slavery. On that day in 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas, with news the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. The joyous, but belated, announcement came two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation declaring “that all persons held as slaves” within the rebellious states “are, and henceforward shall be free.”

The celebration of Juneteenth has its roots in Texas, but the holiday is now observed in many parts of the country with picnics, family gatherings, parades, and community programs. The day is a fitting time to celebrate freedom from slavery and for all Americans to reflect on the rich contributions of African Americans to our Nation.

As we celebrate Juneteenth on June 19, I encourage all Americans to reaffirm their commitment to achieving equal justice and opportunity for all citizens. Laura joins me in sending best wishes on this special occasion.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at the President’s Dinner *June 19, 2002*

Thank you all for that warm welcome, and thank you for coming tonight. We’re here for the same reason. We want Denny Hastert to remain the Speaker of the House and Trent Lott to become the majority leader of the Senate. And I want to thank you for helping us achieve those two important goals. And I say they’re important because I believe that when we achieve those goals, we can do a lot for the American people.

I want to thank John Boehner for taking the lead role on this successful dinner. I want to thank George Allen from Virginia, the Senator from Virginia, for participating and helping. I want to thank Bill Frist and Tom Davis—Bill Frist of the Senate and Tom Davis of the House—for leading their respective committees to get these Members elected. I want to thank Richard Burr of North Carolina for his help and leadership. Mr. Bob Ingram, thank you for your help.